(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for early disposal of pending cases including cases pending in Women Courts. These include increase in Judge strength, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, adoption of alternative mods of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation and recourse to summary trials.

Proposal for Privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India

95. SHRIANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);

(b) if so, the areas of SCI proposed to be privatised;

(c) whether the Disinvestment Ministry has consulted his Ministry in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Government have decided, in principle, to disinvestment further 40% of its equity in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). The modalities of disinvestment are being worked out by Ministry of Disinvestment in consultation with this Ministry.

(d) Proposal has not been firmed up.

Current Share of Inland Water Ways Transport

96. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that current share of Inland Waterway s Transport (IWT) is merely 1.5 billion tonnes Km. as compared to total inland Cargo of over 1,000 billion tonnes Km. inspite of the fact that India has an extensive network of 15,000 Km. waterways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for upgradation of infrastructure in the sectQr and increase the IWT?